

TROY A. CARTER
2ND DISTRICT, LOUISIANA

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE
SUBCOMMITTEES:

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PUBLIC BUILDINGS,
AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

RAILROADS, PIPELINES, AND HAZARDOUS
MATERIALS

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS
SUBCOMMITTEES:

UNDERSERVED, AGRICULTURAL, AND RURAL
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

CONTRACTING AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1802

September 1, 2021

The Honorable John Bel Edwards
Governor of the State of Louisiana
Office of the Governor
900 North Third St.
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9004

Dear Governor Edwards:

As the U.S. Representative for the 2nd Congressional District of Louisiana, I write to you as we face a time of unprecedented and intersectional crises. On August 26th, the Supreme Court blocked the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's eviction moratorium. This loss of protection left millions around the country facing eviction or housing insecurity as a result of economic hardships caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Our state is among the worst impacted by this deadly virus. When I wrote to you a month ago, the U.S. Census Bureau predicted that a staggering 52% of households in Louisiana were likely to suffer eviction or foreclosure. In the wake of Hurricane Ida and the unforeseen expenses incurred as a result, that number will almost certainly rise.

The national eviction moratorium prevented the eviction of tenants unable to make rental payments. The moratorium had a profound impact on our communities, especially those in underserved and under-resourced communities. It helped slow the spread of the virus and allowed Louisianans to keep a roof over their heads during this crisis. Due to the destruction caused by Hurricane Ida, many have been left without a roof to come home to. In the wake of a devastating and destructive hurricane and in the midst of an ongoing, rampant, global pandemic, an eviction moratorium would mitigate the risk for further COVID-19 deaths and enable people to remain sheltered as we embark on the post-storm recovery process. Without a statewide moratorium, we face a situation where people in half the state are displaced after a hurricane and people in the other half of the state face being displaced during a raging pandemic.

As we begin our recovery efforts, we must not forget that the transmission rates for the Delta variant have not dissipated, and we are still at high risk. As local officials continue to urge residents of Southeast Louisiana to stay in their homes, we must ensure that no evictions take place. Dually, we must also recognize the plight of small landlords across the state and provide them the necessary resources to be able to pay their mortgage. Housing is a human right and a critical need, especially in the wake of a natural disaster and ongoing public health threat. It is incumbent on us as elected officials to do all we can to promote safety throughout this dire situation and do everything in our power to ensure the public health of our communities.

506 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-6636

DISTRICT OFFICES:
650 POYDRAS STREET
SUITE 2435
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70130
(504) 288-3777

3401 GENERAL DE GAULLE DRIVE
SUITE 100
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70114
(504) 381-3970

200 DERBIGNY STREET
SUITE 3200
GRETN, LA 70053
(504) 381-3999

125 REGALA PARK ROAD
SUITE K135
RESERVE, LA 70084

6803 PRESS DRIVE
SUITE 166
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70126

801 HARDING BOULEVARD
BATON ROUGE, LA 70807
(225) 726-2070

While I will continue fighting in Congress to extend the national moratorium, I hope you will do everything you can on the state level to protect Louisianans now. I stand ready to further assist you in this critical matter and in all COVID-19 and Hurricane Ida relief efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Troy A. Carter, Sr.', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Troy A Carter, Sr.
Member of Congress